

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4115

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 14743

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA, KS, KN, JA

SUBJ: KOREA QUESTION IN UN

REF: A) STATE 245328: B) TOKYO 14548

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB FROM SHOESMITH

1. I HAVE OBTAINED APPOINTMENT TO SEE VICE MINISTER SATO AT 1430 HOURS OCTOBER 17 (0130 HOURS OCTOBER 17 WASHINGTON TIME) AT WHICH TIME I SHALL REITERATE FORCEFULLY OUR VIEW THAT GOJ MUST EXERT ITS STRONGEST EFFORTS TO SECURE DEFEAT OF HOSTILE RESOLUTION AS WELL AS PASSAGE OF OUR RESOLUTION. SINCE SATO COULD NOT RECEIVE ME SOONER, I WANT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF INTERVAL AVAILABLE TO CONSULT WITH YOU ON WAYS IN WHICH WE MIGHT REINFORCE REPRESENTATIONS ALREADY MADE BY YOU AND POLITICAL COUNSELOR.

2. ALTHOUGH OKAWA SEEMS PARTICULARLY PREOCCUPIED WITH TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS, I BELIEVE THAT HIS HANDLING OF GOJ APPROACH TO KOREAN ITEM HAS HAD APPROVAL OF FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA IF NOT THE PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF. AS SUCH, I SUSPECT THAT OKAWA'S APPARENT RELUCTANCE TO PRESS HARD AGAINST HOSTILE RESOLUTION AND THE CONTINUED ATTRACTION WHICH THE ASEAN DRAFT EVIDENTLY HOLDS FOR HIM PROBABLY REFLECT DESIRE OF TOP LEADERSHIP TO AVOID APPEARANCE OF "CONFRONTATION" WITH NORTH KOREA. BEHIND THIS DESIRE IS PROBABLY PRIME MINISTER MIKI'S PERSONAL INTEREST IN EXPLOR-
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ING POSSIBILITIES FOR ACHIEVING SOME LONG-TERM ACCOMMODATION

BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA AND CONCERN FOR ADVERSE DOMESTIC POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS IF HIS GOVERNMENT IS PLACED IN POSITION OF HEAD-ON CONFLICT WITH NORTH KOREA IN THE UN, A CIRCUMSTANCE WHICH COULD BE EXPECTED TO DRAW FIRE FROM WITHIN THE LDP AS WELL AS THE OPPOSITION.

3. I BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT GOJ WILLNOT BE EASILY PERSUADED TO MAKE ALL-OUT EFFORT TO DEFEAT HOSTILE RESOLUTION EVEN IF THESE EFFORTS ARE LIMITED PRIMARILY TO ASEAN AND OTHER ASIAN GOVERNMENTS. IN MY APPROACH TO SATO I INTEND TO PLACE PARTICULAR STRESS ON POINT YOU MADE WITH NISHIDA THAT HOSTILE RESOLUTION DIRECTED AT PRESENCE OF U.S. FORCES IN KOREA. GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE THE GOJ ITSELF ATTACHES TO THIS PRESENCE, PASSAGE OF THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION SHOULD BE OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO IT. I BELIEVE IT WOULD STRENGTHEN MY PRESENTATION IF I COULD INDICATE TO SATO JUST HOW CONFIDENT WE ARE OF OUR VOTE COUNT ON THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION: HAVE WE OR THE CORE GROUP MADE ANY FIRM COUNT LATER THAN OCTOBER 3(SEE PARA 2 REF B)? IN ADDITION, IT WOULD BE USEFULFOR ME TO STATE THAT WE HAVE ALREADY SENT FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS TO OUR AMBASSADORS IN ASEAN COUTRIES, AS YOU INDICATED TO NISHIDA, AND TO GIVE SATO THE SUBSTANCE OF THESE INSTRUCTIONS. FINALLLY, DO WE HAVE ANY REASON TO BE CONCERNED, AS OKAWA IS, THAT EFFORTS TO OBTAIN NEGATIVE ASEAN VOTES ON THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION MIGHT PREJUDICE OUR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN THEIR SUPPORT ON THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTIONS?

4. IF ANY OTHER ARGUMENTS OCCUR TO YOU, I WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING THEM.
SHOESMITH

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O - MR. P. JOHNSON.

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